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Wayne Verrill, Management Practices Support Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O Box 100
Sacramento, Ca 95812

Paul Dabbs Bulletin 160
Statewide Water Planning Branch
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Biosolids

Gentlemen:

Objection to biosolid application on lands has been led by the County of Kern. This agency has allowed raw sewage to be dumped into and adjacent to watercourses, but has shown concern over biosolids when it saw a method to extort funds from biosolid hawlers to pay developer fees for generous contributors. Neither the Board nor the Department need be involved in the County's petty corruption.

There are in California also those cultists who see biosolid application as an affront to Mother Earth. Biosolid use has been in place for a long time in states with a better record of scientific environmental concern than this State, which is oft emotional and quasi-religious. One must ask these cultists what they conceive the term "organic" to be.

There may be those who have concerns about accumulation of biosolids in their area and the effects of salts or heavy metals. Rational protocols need to be followed. Biosolid use is less a case of yes or no than of where and how.

In all of the arguments concerning biosolid use, both valid and invalid, the focus has been on water quality; the use can benefit water supply. Much of this State has been subjected to hydraulic mining and catastrophic fire, which causes sheet erosion and storage loss. Standardized judicious use of biosolids, when mixed with a binder and seeds, has been proven effective in highway construction and watershed restoration.

Considering the bleak future forecast for California's water supply, your two agencies need to do some preliminary coordination concerning biosolid application protocols and include them into the State Water Plan, Bulletin 160.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fox